

Middle School Initiative

**PART I
COVER SHEET**

CAP 4 SEMESTER 1 WEEK 2

COURSE: Flight Commander Drill and Ceremonies, Achievement 9

LESSON TITLE: Mass Formation Procedures

LENGTH OF LESSON: 50 Minutes

METHOD: Informal Lecture - Discussion or Demonstration - Performance

REFERENCE(S):

1. *Leadership: 2000 and Beyond*, Volume II, Chapter 8
2. AFM 36-2203, *Drill and Ceremonies*, Chapter 5, 3 Jun 96

AUDIO/VISUAL AIDS/HANDOUTS/ACTIVITY MATERIAL(S):

1. Overhead Projector
2. Transparencies
3. Handout 1 - Drill Legend

COGNITIVE OBJECTIVE: The objective of this lesson is for each cadet to:

1. Become acquainted with the purpose of a squadron mass formation.
2. Be cognizant of squadron mass formation movements.

COGNITIVE SAMPLES OF BEHAVIOR: Each cadet will:

1. Understand the purpose of a squadron being in mass formation.
2. Become thoroughly familiar with mass formation procedures.

AFFECTIVE OBJECTIVE: The objective of this lesson is for each cadet to participate in the squadron mass formation.

AFFECTIVE SAMPLES OF BEHAVIOR: Voluntarily participates in the practice of forming a squadron in mass and making mass turns.

Middle School Initiative

PART II TEACHING PLAN

Introduction

ATTENTION: During some portion of your CAP career you may be required to participate in a parade that has your unit in a mass formation. Just what is a mass formation? We will be discussing and practicing this formation and the allied movements required to assemble and disassemble the formation over the next two class periods.

MOTIVATION: Our purpose today is to provide you with sufficient knowledge and practice so that each of you may be able to form the squadron, as normally done, and to form the squadron into a mass formation in minimal time.

TRANSITION: By learning to form the squadron in a mass formation and the allied movements required of the squadron, you will learn how to maneuver the unit during a parade and/or review.

Body

Note: The method of presentation is dependent on the size of the student body.

MP 1 As you already know, the squadron is formed in line at normal interval and distance.

TRANSPARENCY DC9.1.1 - Forming the Squadron in Line

After the appropriate reporting has been accomplished and the NCOs/officers have been posted, we should be ready to move out.

TRANSPARENCY DC9.1.2 - Squadron in Line

Facing the squadron to the right, the squadron is still at normal interval and distance between elements and ranks. This must be modified before you can form into a mass formation. The squadron's flights must be at close interval in column before executing the mass formation movement. The command issued by the drill squadron commander is "**Close, MARCH.**" The flight commanders echo the preparatory command and all execute the movement on the command of execution. This movement has been practiced before in flight formation; therefore, it should be a simple task to complete while in squadron formation.

TRANSPARENCY DC9.1.3 - Squadron in Column

This transparency shows the squadron in column at either normal or close interval with all staff personnel in their in-column positions. Only the relative interval between files is changed.

MP 2 Now that we are in column at close interval, we can execute massing the squadron. The command to form the squadron in mass when it is halted is "**Squadron Mass Left, MARCH.**" On the preparatory command, the leading flight commander gives the command "**STAND FAST.**" The succeeding flight commander(s) command "**Column Half Left.**" On the command of execution, the leading flight stands fast. In turn, the succeeding flight executes a column half left and the flight commander commands "**Column Half Right, MARCH**" to move the flight to a position abreast of the leading flight at close interval. The flight commander will halt the flight when the leading rank is on line with the leading rank of the flight already on line. This places the flights in mass formation at close interval.

NOTE: The instructor might advise the succeeding flight commander(s) that when they come abreast of the right flight, they should initiate a mark time so that all ranks may adjust their positions prior to being halted. This may take up to eight steps at mark time.

The squadron may also be massed while marching in column. The commands issued by the drill squadron commander are the same as if halted. On the preparatory command, the leading flight commander (A Flight) commands, "**CONTINUE THE MARCH**" and the following flight commander(s) command "**COLUMN HALF LEFT.**" On the command of execution "**MARCH**", the leading flight commander (A Flight) will command "**Flight, HALT.**" The other flight(s) maneuver in the same manner as before.

To assure proper alignment, the drill squadron commander should issue the command "**At Close Interval Dress Right, DRESS.**" The A Flight commander will check the dress of approximately three ranks from the right side of the squadron and return to his/her position in front of A Flight. The drill squadron commander then commands "**Ready, FRONT**" and "**COVER.**"

TRANSPARENCY DC9.1.4 - Squadron in Mass Formation

This transparency shows the squadron in mass formation and the positions of all staff personnel.

MP 3 Now that we are in a squadron mass formation, the drill squadron commander issues all commands directly to the squadron for execution, except when under the jurisdiction of a higher commander. For these lessons, the drill squadron commander will issue all commands.

While in mass formation, the squadron changes direction of march, either to the right or left, with the command "**Right (Left) Turn, MARCH.**" The right (left) flank person of the line of guides and flight commanders is the pivot for this movement. While halted, when the command "**Right Turn, MARCH**" is given, the right flank person (the guide) takes one step forward and executes a 90-degree pivot to the right, advances one step forward and takes up the half-step. Others on this line of guides and flight commanders advance one step forward and pivot 45-degrees to the right and march at that angle until they reach a position in front of the right file and pivot again 45-degrees to the right, march forward until on line with others to the right and

assume the half-step. When given the command "**Left Turn, MARCH,**" the left flank person (flight commander) establishes the pivot point and faces left in marching, takes one step forward and assumes the half-step. Others on the front line pivot 45-degrees to the left in marching and continue at this angle until they reach a point in front of the left file and pivot 45 degrees to the left, march forward until abreast of the person on the left and assume the half-step.

NOTE: Display Transparency DC9.1.5 - Right Turn in Mass Formation at this point to show what has happened thus far.

TRANSPARENCY DC9.1.5 - Right Turn in Mass Formation

Each succeeding rank executes the movement in approximately the same position and in the same manner as the preceding rank. The entire unit marches at the half step until given the command "**Forward, MARCH**" by the drill squadron commander. The drill squadron commander has marched backwards throughout this turn and when he/she is satisfied that the unit is realigned will issue the command to march forward. He/she will then face about in marching and resume his/her normal position.

While executing left turn movements, dress will always be to the base file of the turn until "**Forward, MARCH**" is given, then the dress will revert to the right.

MP 4 Although there is little call for an extended mass formation, it may be used to present a broader front than a normal mass formation. The procedure is essentially the same as previously instructed, except that the command is modified to specify the number of steps between flights, i.e., "**Squadron Mass 4 Paces Left, MARCH.**" Executing this movement requires more practice than the standard mass formation in order to get the correct interval between flights.

NOTE: Time allowing and sufficient troops are available, the above should be practiced in time remaining.

Conclusion

SUMMARY: During this period we have discussed and practiced the formation of a squadron mass. The purpose of a squadron mass formation is to allow a maximum number of units to participate in a parade or review by taking up a minimum amount of space.

REMOTIVATION: Remember that a squadron mass formation provides for a maximum effort by a group, or wing, to demonstrate the cohesiveness, and state of training, of the unit during a ceremony.

CLOSURE: Please read Paragraphs 5.7, 5.8, and 5.10 in your drill and ceremonies manual to review these procedures. Also, read Paragraphs 5.2.4, 5.2.5, 5.2.6, and 5.9 in preparation for next week's class. Class is dismissed.

Middle School Initiative

**PART III
LESSON REVIEW**

LESSON OBJECTIVE(S): The purpose of this lesson was for each cadet to become aware of how to form a squadron mass formation and execute mass turns. Each cadet was also to become acquainted with an extended mass formation.

LESSON QUESTIONS: None